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its natural history and commercial resources will receive all possible attention. To archæologists this must be an intensely interesting field, as the Beni region was the treasure-land of the Incas; while to zoölogists it is a paradise of new forms. Said Dr. Sclater in his address before the British Association, "There is no part of South America which I would sooner suggest as a promising locality for the zoölogical collector."

THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS. — We have received copies of a Report of Geographical and Hydrographical Explorations on the Coast of Alaska, by W. H. Dall, assistant in the Coast Survey. It is accompanied by a map of these islands on an extended scale, and contains many corrections of previous maps.

MOUNT ST. ELIAS. — In an elaborate account of Mount St. Elias printed in the forthcoming report of the Coast Survey, Mr. Dall publishes a map of the neighboring Alaskan coast, with sketches of Mount St. Elias and Mount Fairweather. The former he estimates to be 19,500 feet in height, while Mount Cook, which is sometimes mistaken for it, is 16,000 feet high. Mr. Dall thinks that Mount St. Elias is not an extinct volcano, through the great amphitheatre on the southeast flank may possibly be the crater of an extinct volcano; still this is doubtful. "Preëminent in grandeur," says Mr. Dall, "is the southern face of this mountain. With few and but insignificant foot-hills, it rises abruptly from the valley; and at about five thousand feet above its base, the entire side of the mountain is formed of an immense rock-face, inclined at an angle of 45° to the sea, rising eight or ten thousand feet without a break in its continuity. It terminates somewhat irregularly above, and the upper contours of the peak remind one of the granite peaks of the Californian Sierras. The apex is pyramidal, sharp, and clearly cut, leading to the inference that it is precipitous on the invisible northern side." There are no glaciers on the flanks of this mountain, but, owing to the topographical features of the peak, great snowfields; while there are four glaciers on Mount Fairweather, and at the head of the Bay of Yakutat, which lies between the two mountains, "glaciers come down to the sea, and send their floating fragments, laden with earth and stones, out into the sea." These glaciers have apparently always been local, as "the character of the topography is such that it is inconceivable that a continuous glacier, moving in any direction, could have ever covered the western slope of these mountains." The statement of a Russian sailor that Mount St. Elias sent forth flames and ashes is regarded as untrustworthy.

MICROSCOPY.¹

MICROSCOPY AT THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION. — At the Detroit meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, last August, the microscopists who were in attendance decided to organize permanently a subsection or club, connected with the association.

¹ This department is conducted by DR. R. H. WARD, Troy, N. Y.

To allow ample time for preparation, and to facilitate the coöperation of all interested parties, it was decided to adjourn for one year, and to proceed with the organization at the Buffalo meeting of the association, which commences on the third Wednesday of August next and continues about one week. All persons interested in the microscope, and desirous of joining such an organization as is now proposed, are invited to be present and coöperate, whether at present members of the association or not, and are requested to bring to the meeting original papers of scientific interest upon subjects connected with the microscope and its work, and also to bring instruments, accessories, and objects, especially those illustrating new or unfamiliar inventions, contrivances, and discoveries.

It is hoped that the participation of microscopists in this movement will be prompt and cordial. The general desire for a national organization has become a positive necessity, and it is believed that success could be in no other way be so fully obtained as by meeting in connection with the American Association, whose character and influence could not fail to be an advantage, whose meetings are necessarily held only at the most available times and places, and whose elaborate arrangements for the convenience and economy of members attending are designed for the benefit of scientists in every department. The recent accession of the chemists, the ethnologists, and the entomologists marks the tendency of the association to become a general congress of American scientists. In meeting with the American Association the microscopists will enjoy a more than double advantage, but separated from it they would lose from their number those who desire to attend the meetings of the association and whose business or other convenience might interfere with the additional journey and absence demanded by a second meeting.

AMERICAN POSTAL MICRO-CABINET CLUB. — A year's experience in the working of this organization has already given it the position of a useful and well-sustained institution. The first announcement of the formation of the club was so favorably received that an unexpectedly large number of members was enrolled, since which time its membership has steadily increased until it now numbers twelve circuits of members, distributed over the whole country east of the Rocky Mountains. With the exception of a remarkably small number of accidents to objects while in transit by the mails, which it is believed will be still fewer in the future, the club has met with no practical difficulties or disappointments. The general excellence as well as the variety of objects contributed has been conspicuous; and those members, if there are any, who can learn but little from the work of others in various departments of the science must at least feel that they have contributed widely to the advantage of others at very little trouble to themselves. In addition to the circulation and study of mounted objects, critical notes upon the same, questions and answers, and announcement of duplicates for exchange, it is proposed to add during the present year the exchange of

microscopic objects and material, whether mounted or unmounted, not necessarily connected with the slide contributed; any member adding at the bottom of his note a statement of offers or wants, and other members addressing him directly by mail, in regard to the same.

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

—The fifth Bulletin, second series, of the United States Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories contains the following papers: A Review of the Fossil Flora of North America, by Leo Lesquereux; Notes on the Geology of some Localities near Cañon City, by S. G. Williams; Some Account, Critical, Descriptive, and Historical, of *Zapus Hudsonius*, by Dr. Elliott Coues; On the Breeding-Habits, Nest, and Eggs of the White-Tailed Ptarmigan (*Lagopus leucurus*), by Dr. Elliott Coues; List of Hemiptera of the Region west of the Mississippi River, including those collected during the Hayden Explorations of 1873, by P. R. Uhler; On some New Species of Fossil Plants of the Lignitic Formations, by Leo Lesquereux; New Species of Fossil Plants from the Cretaceous Formation of the Dakota Group, by Leo Lesquereux; Notes on the Lignitic Group of Eastern Colorado and Wyoming, by F. V. Hayden; On the Supposed Ancient Outlet of Great Salt Lake, by A. S. Packard, Jr. The paper by Mr. Uhler occupies about a hundred pages, and contains numerous descriptions of new forms and is illustrated by three excellent plates.

—On the 13th of October, 1875, The Cincinnati Geological Society was organized with the following officers: President, Harold B. Wilson; Treasurer, Chas. Schuchert; and Recording Secretary, Chas. B. Morrell.

—A Summer School of Biology will be opened in the Museum of the Peabody Academy of Science, Salem, Mass., beginning July 7th and continuing six weeks. Especial attention will be given to marine botany and zoölogy, as the advantages for dredging and shore collecting are most excellent. The museum of the academy is situated within less than five minutes' walk of the wharves, while the cars and omnibuses run often to the beaches and good collecting-grounds. The number of students will be limited to fifteen, and while the school is designed primarily for the teachers of Essex County, Mass., a few others can be admitted. Board can be obtained for \$5 a week and upwards.

Instruction in botany will be given by Mr. John Robinson, with the assistance of Mr. C. H. Higbee; and in zoölogy by A. S. Packard, Jr., with the assistance of Messrs. J. S. Kingsley and S. E. Cassino. Mr. C. Cooke will have charge of the dredging parties. Special instruction will be given in microscopy by Rev. E. C. Bolles. Prof. E. S. Morse and several other naturalists of distinction will probably give an occasional lecture. An admission fee of \$10.00 will be charged. For further particulars apply to A. S. Packard, Jr., Peabody Academy of Science, Salem, Mass.